Roman world than did the China of the seventh to the twentieth century from that of the Ch'in and the Han. It was, however, a somewhat altered China which emerged from the years of distress.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The best full Chinese sources for the period are the dynastic histories. The *San Kuo Chih,* or Memoir of the Three Kingdoms, was composed by Ch'en Shou of the third century and so is practically contemporary with the events recorded. Being a subject of the Chin, the author was biased in favor of the state of Wei. Much of it is dry as to style, but it was enriched in 429 by an abundant and valuable commentary by P'ei Sung-chih, and is said to be one of the best of the Chinese historical works. The *Chin Shw,* or Book of Chin, was compiled in the T'ang dynasty by imperial order from the works of preceding authors. The *Sung Shu,* or Book of the (Liu) Sung, is by Shen Yo (441-512), as are also histories of the Chin and the Ch'i. The *Nan Ch'i Shu,* or the Book of the Southern Ch'i, is by Hsiao Tzu-hsien (489-537). The *Liang Shu* and the *Ch'en Shu,* or the Book of Liang and the Book of Ch'en, were both written by Yao Chien (died 643) at imperial order, largely on the basis of material collected and partially compiled by his father, Yao Ch'a, an official under the Ch'en. The *Wei Shu* was written by Wei Shou (506-572), was twice revised in the next two decades, and in its present form was revised and added to from other sources under the Sung (960-1279). It is unique among the dynastic histories in having an essay on Buddhism and Taoism, for the writers of most of these histories, being orthodox Confucianists, tended to ignore the rival faiths. The *Pel Ch'i Shu,* or Book of the Northern Ch'i, in rather indifferent literary style, was written by Li Po-yao (565-648) from sources assembled by his father, Li Te-lin, an official under the Northern Ch'i and the Northern Chou. The *Chou Shu* was compiled early in the T'ang dynasty, by imperial order, from contemporary, or nearly contemporary, material. The *Nan Skik,* or Southern History, an abbreviated account of the Sung, Southern Ch'i, Liang, and Ch'en, was compiled by Li Yen-

shou of the seventh century and revised by a contemporary, Ling-hu Te-fen. From the literary standpoint it is inferior, but it contains some information not found in the separate histories of these dynasties. The *Pei Shih,* or Northern History, an abbreviated account of the Northern Wei, the Northern Ch'i, the" Northern Chou, and the Sui, also by Li Yen-shou, is much better done than the *Nan Shlh* and fills many of the *lacuna* in the separate histories of these dynasties. In both works the author made use of his father's notes.

It is noteworthy that several of these histories were composed by imperial order. The T'ang initiated the custom of having the records of the preceding dynasty officially compiled by its successor. Before that time the dynastic histories had been private enterprises.